

 **THE WISTAR INSTITUTE**

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The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 425 A
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

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Dear Secretary Thompson:

I am writing this letter to encourage prompt action by the FDA on the General Mills Whole Grain Claims Citizens petition filed with FDA on May 11, 2004 (DK/H 2004-0223CP1).

I want to express my support for consistent, uniform definitions for "good" and "excellent" sources of whole grain. These will give consumers practical tools to help make sound nutritional choices regarding diet.

As a health professional and researcher, one of my roles is to investigate the health benefits of foods in hopes that those findings will eventually be translated into dietary recommendations for public health. One of those recommendations is to consume more whole grain foods. The benefits of consuming more whole grains are widely recognized not only by the Department of Health and Human Services and the USDA but also by most health organizations. However, we know that there is actually a significant gap between the recommended amounts and how much whole grain is actually consumed.

One of the major road blocks in reaching the recommended goals for whole grain consumption is the confusion about how to identify whole grain foods in the marketplace. Uniform definitions for "good" and "excellent" sources of whole grain will give consumers an important tool needed to identify foods that contain significant amounts of whole grain.

I believe prompt action on this petition will allow consumers to take advantage of the important dietary advice to increase the consumption of whole grain foods. Furthermore, I hope that the FDA will commence action in advance of the release of the new Dietary Guidelines and Food Guide Pyramid.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Kritchevsky, PhD
Caspar Wistar Scholar and Institute Professor

c: Crawford, Bost, Hentges, Schneemann Brackett

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